

Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a “NO CHANGE” option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Ghost Mural

In 1932 the well-known Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros was commissioned to paint a mural on the second-story exterior wall of a historic building in downtown Los Angeles. Siqueiros was asked to celebrate tropical America in his work, **1** he accordingly titled it “América Tropical.” He painted the mural’s first two sections, featuring images of a tropical rainforest and a Maya pyramid, during the day. **2** Also, to avoid

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) which he accordingly titled
- C) accordingly he titled it
- D) it was titled accordingly

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) However,
- C) Although,
- D) Moreover,

scrutiny, Siqueiros painted the final section of the mural, the **3** centerpiece at night.

4 The reason for Siqueiros's secrecy became clear when the mural was **5** confided. The centerpiece of the work was dominated by images of native people being oppressed and **6** including an eagle symbolizing the United States. Siqueiros's political message did not please the wealthy citizens who had commissioned his work. They eventually ordered the mural to be literally whitewashed, or painted over with white paint.

However, by the 1970s, the white paint had begun to fade, and the bright colors of the mural were beginning to show through. At the same time, a social and civil rights movement for Mexican Americans was working to raise awareness of Mexican American cultural identity. Artists associated with **7** this began to rediscover and promote the work of the Mexican muralists, particularly Siqueiros. To them, "América Tropical" was an example of how art in public spaces could be used to celebrate Mexican American heritage while at the same time making a political statement. Inspired by Siqueiros and the other muralists, this new generation of artists strove to emulate the old mural masters.

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) centerpiece,
- C) centerpiece;
- D) centerpiece—

4

Which choice best connects the sentence with the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) All three sections of the mural were on display
- C) The community turned out in large numbers
- D) Siqueiros was informed of people's reactions

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) promulgated.
- C) imparted.
- D) unveiled.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) included
- C) includes
- D) had included

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it
- C) them
- D) this movement

8 The result was an explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s. It was the Chicano mural movement. Hundreds of large, colorful new murals depicting elements of Mexican American life and history appeared during this period, some in designated cultural locations but many more in abandoned lots, on unused buildings, or 9 painted on infrastructure such as highways and bridges. Many of these murals can still be seen today, although some have not been well maintained.

8

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) The result was an explosion, the Chicano mural movement, of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s.
- B) The result was the Chicano mural movement, an explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s.
- C) The explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s was the resulting Chicano mural movement.
- D) An explosion of mural painting resulted and it spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s; it was the Chicano mural movement.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they were painted on
- C) on
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

Fortunately, a new group of artists has discovered the murals, and efforts are underway to clean, restore, and repaint them. Once again, Siqueiros’s “América Tropical” is **10** leading the way. After a lengthy and complex restoration process, this powerful work is now a tourist attraction, complete with a visitor center and a rooftop viewing platform. **11** Advocates hope that Siqueiros’s mural will once more serve as an inspiration, this time inspiring viewers to save and restore an important cultural and artistic legacy.

10

Which choice most effectively sets up the information that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) being cleaned and restored.
- C) at risk of destruction.
- D) awaiting its moment of appreciation.

11

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

When it was painted in 1932, Siqueiros’s mural was considered offensive, but now it is acclaimed.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides historical context for the changes discussed in the passage.
- B) Yes, because it provides a useful reminder of how people once viewed Siqueiros’s work.
- C) No, because it unnecessarily repeats information from earlier in the passage.
- D) No, because it makes a claim about Siqueiros’s work that is not supported by the passage.

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

The Hype of Healthier Organic Food

Some people buy organic food because they believe organically grown crops are more nutritious and safer for consumption than **12** the people who purchase their conventionally grown counterparts, which are usually produced with pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. In the name of health, **13** spending \$1.60 for every dollar they would have spent on food that is **14** grown in a manner that is considered conventional. Scientific evidence, **15** therefore, suggests that consumers do not reap significant benefits, in terms of either nutritional value or safety, from organic food.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the purchase of
- C) purchasing
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) these consumers spend
- C) having spent
- D) to spend

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) grown with conventional methods, using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
- C) conventionally and therefore not organically grown.
- D) conventionally grown.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) furthermore,
- C) however,
- D) subsequently,

Although advocates of organic food **16** preserve that organic produce is healthier than conventionally grown produce because it has more vitamins and minerals, this assertion is not supported by scientific research. **17** For instance, one review published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* provided analysis of the results of comparative studies conducted over a span of 50 years; researchers consistently found no evidence that organic crops are more nutritious than conventionally grown ones in terms of their vitamin and mineral content. **18** Similarly, Stanford University researchers who examined almost 250 studies comparing the nutritional content of different kinds of organic foods with that of their nonorganic counterparts found very little difference between the two.

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) carry on
- C) maintain
- D) sustain

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) However,
- C) In addition,
- D) Likewise,

18

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that organic agricultural products are now available in approximately 20,000 markets specializing in natural foods.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it adds a relevant research finding from a government agency.
- B) Yes, because it supports the passage's argument that organic food is less nutritious than conventionally grown food.
- C) No, because it is not relevant to the paragraph's discussion of scientific evidence.
- D) No, because it introduces a term that has not been defined in the passage.

Evidence also undermines the claim that organic food is safer to eat. While researchers have found lower levels of pesticide residue in organic produce than in nonorganic produce, the pesticide residue detected in conventional produce falls within acceptable safety limits. According to such organizations as the US Environmental Protection Agency, the minute amounts of residue falling within such limits **19** have no negative impact on human health. **20**

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is having
- C) has had
- D) has

20

At this point, the writer wants to further reinforce the paragraph's claim about the safety of nonorganic food. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

- A) To be labeled organic, a product must meet certain standards determined and monitored by the US Department of Agriculture.
- B) Organic food, however, is regulated to eliminate artificial ingredients that include certain types of preservatives, sweeteners, colorings, and flavors.
- C) Moreover, consumers who are concerned about ingesting pesticide residue can eliminate much of it by simply washing or peeling produce before eating it.
- D) In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about one-fifth of the pesticides used worldwide are applied to crops in the United States.

Based on scientific evidence, organic food offers neither significant nutritional nor safety benefits for consumers. Proponents of organic food, of course, are quick to add that **21** their are numerous other reasons to buy organic **22** food, such as, a desire to protect the environment from potentially damaging pesticides or a preference for the taste of organically grown foods. Research regarding these issues is less conclusive than the findings regarding nutritional content and pesticide residue safety limits. What is clear, though, is this: if a consumer's goal is to buy the healthiest and safest food to eat, the increased cost of organic food is a waste of money.

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) there are
- C) there is
- D) their is

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) food such as:
- C) food such as,
- D) food, such as

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

You Are Where You Say

Research on regional variations in English-language use has not only yielded answers to such **23** life-altering questions as how people in different parts of the United States refer to carbonated beverages (“soda”? “pop”? “coke”?) **24** it also illustrates how technology can change the very nature of research. While traditional, human-intensive data collection **25** has all but disappeared in language studies, the explosion of social media has opened new avenues for investigation.

[1] Perhaps the epitome of traditional methodology is the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, colloquially known as *DARE*. [2] Its fifth and final alphabetical volume—ending with “zydeco”—released in 2012, the dictionary represents decades of arduous work. [3] Over a six-year period from 1965 to 1970, university graduate students conducted interviews in more than a thousand communities across the nation. [4] Their goal was to determine what names people used for such everyday objects and concepts as a submarine sandwich

23

The writer wants to convey an attitude of genuine interest and to avoid the appearance of mockery. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) galvanizing
- C) intriguing
- D) weird

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and also illustrates
- C) but also illustrates
- D) illustrating

25

Which choice most effectively sets up the contrast in the sentence and is consistent with the information in the rest of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) still has an important place
- C) remains the only option
- D) yields questionable results

(a “hero” in New York City but a “dagwood” in many parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and Colorado) and a heavy rainstorm (variously a “gully washer,” “pour-down,” or “stump mover”). [5] The work that dictionary founder Frederic G. Cassidy had expected to be finished by 1976 was not, in fact, completed in his lifetime. [6] The wait did not dampen enthusiasm among **26** scholars. Scholars consider the work a signal achievement in linguistics. **27**

Not all research into regional English varieties **28** requires such time, effort, and resources, however. Today’s researchers have found that the veritable army of trained volunteers traveling the country conducting face-to-face interviews can sometimes be **29** replaced by another army the vast array of individuals volunteering details about their lives—and, inadvertently, their language—through social media. Brice Russ of Ohio State University, for example, has employed software to sort through postings on one social media **30** cite in search of particular words and phrases of interest as well as the location from which users are posting. From these data,

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) scholars, and these scholars
- C) scholars, but scholars
- D) scholars, who

27

To improve the cohesion and flow of this paragraph, the writer wants to add the following sentence.

Data gathering proved to be the quick part of the project.

The sentence would most logically be placed after

- A) sentence 2.
- B) sentence 3.
- C) sentence 4.
- D) sentence 5.

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) are requiring
- C) have required
- D) require

29

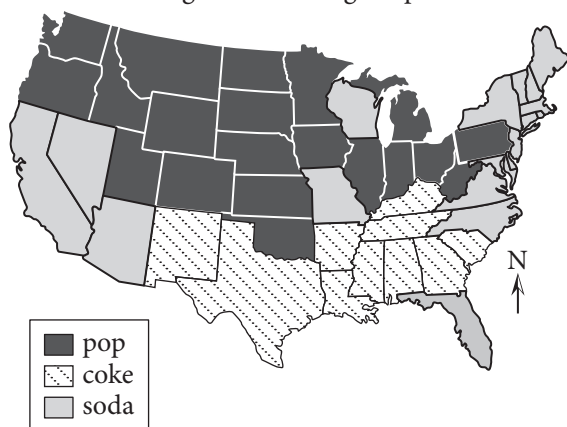
- A) NO CHANGE
- B) replaced—by another army,
- C) replaced by another army;
- D) replaced by another army:

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) site in search of
- C) sight in search for
- D) cite in search for

he was able, among other things, to confirm regional variations in people's terms for soft drinks. As the map shows, "soda" is commonly heard in the middle and western portions of the United States; "pop" is frequently used in many southern states; and "coke" is predominant in the northeastern and southwest regions but used elsewhere as well. **31** As interesting as Russ's findings are, though, **32** they're true value lies in their reminder that the Internet is not merely a sophisticated tool for collecting data but is also **33** itself a rich source of data.

Soft Drink Descriptions by State
Highest Percentage Reported



Adapted from Jennifer M. Smith, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, with data from www.popvssoda.com

31

The writer wants the information in the passage to correspond as closely as possible with the information in the map. Given that goal and assuming that the rest of the previous sentence would remain unchanged, in which sequence should the three terms for soft drinks be discussed?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) "pop," "soda," "coke"
- C) "pop," "coke," "soda"
- D) "soda," "coke," "pop"

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) their true value lies in their
- C) there true value lies in they're
- D) their true value lies in there

33

Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence and paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) where we can learn what terms people use to refer to soft drinks.
- C) a useful way to stay connected to friends, family, and colleagues.
- D) helpful to researchers.

Questions 34–44 are based on the following passage.

Creating Worlds: A Career in Game Design

If you love video games and have thought about how the games you play might be changed or improved, or if you’ve imagined creating a video game of your own, you might want to consider a career as a video game designer. There **34** were a number of steps you can take to determine whether game design is the right field for you and, if it is, to prepare yourself for such a career.

Before making the choice, you should have some sense of what a video game designer does. Every video game, whether for a console, computer, or mobile device, starts with a concept that originates in the mind of a designer. The designer envisions the game’s fundamental **35** elements: the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique, and is thus a primary creative force behind a video game.

Conceptualizing a game is only the beginning of a video game designer’s **36** job, however, no matter how good a concept is, it will never be translated into a video game unless it is communicated effectively to all the other members of the video game development team. **37** A designer must generate extensive documentation and

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) has been
- C) are
- D) was

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) elements: the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique—
- C) elements—the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique—
- D) elements; the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique;

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) job, however. No
- C) job—however, no
- D) job however no

37

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Successful communication is essential if a designer’s idea is to become a reality.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it supports the conclusion drawn in the following sentence.
- B) Yes, because it illustrates a general principle discussed in the paragraph.
- C) No, because it distracts from the focus of the paragraph by introducing irrelevant material.
- D) No, because it merely reformulates the thought expressed in the preceding sentence.

38 explain his or her ideas clearly in order to ensure that the programmers, artists, and others on the team all share the same vision. **39** Likewise, anyone considering a career as a video game designer must be **40** skilled writers and speakers. In addition, because video game development is a collaborative effort and because the development of any one game may take months or even years, a designer must be an effective team player as well as detail oriented.

[1] A basic understanding of computer programming is essential. [2] In fact, many designers **41** initially begin their pursuits as programmers. [3] Consider taking some general computer science courses as well as courses in artificial intelligence and graphics in order to increase your understanding of the technical challenges involved in developing a video game. [4] Courses in psychology and human behavior may help you develop **42** emphatic collaboration skills, while courses in the humanities, such as in literature and film, should give you the background necessary to develop effective narrative structures. [5] A

38

Which choice results in a sentence that best supports the point developed in this paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) possess a vivid imagination
- C) assess his or her motivations carefully
- D) learn to accept constructive criticism

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Nevertheless,
- C) Consequently,
- D) However,

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a skilled writer and speaker.
- C) skilled both as writers and speakers.
- D) both skilled writers and speakers.

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) start to begin their work
- C) initiate their progression
- D) begin their careers

42

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) paramount
- C) eminent
- D) important

designer also needs careful educational preparation.

[6] Finally, because a designer should understand the business aspects of the video game industry, such as budgeting and marketing, you may want to consider taking some business courses. [7] Although demanding and deadline driven, **43** video game design can be a lucrative and rewarding field for people who love gaming and have prepared themselves with the necessary skills and knowledge. **44**

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the choice of video game design
- C) you should choose video game design because it
- D) choosing to design video games

44

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be

- A) placed where it is now.
- B) placed before sentence 1.
- C) placed after sentence 3.
- D) DELETED from the paragraph.

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**